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HUGH D JAEGER
P.O. BOX 672
150 LAKE STREET WEST, SUITE 106
WAYZATA MN 55391

JAN 11 2007

In re Application of: BURBA, et al.
Serial No.: 10/706,554
Filed: November 12, 2003
Title: ULTRASOUND PROBE POSITIONING
IMMERSION SHELL

: DECISION ON PETITION TO
: MAKE SPECIAL FOR NEW
: APPLICATION UNDER 37
: C.F.R. § 1.102 & M.P.E.P. §
: 708.02

This is a decision on the petition filed on October 25, 2006 to make the above-identified application special for accelerated examination procedure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d). It replaces and supercedes the prior mailed decision which inadvertently listed an incorrect Title of invention in the heading. The prior decision has been closed from the official file wrapper and from public view.

The petition to make the application special is **DENIED**.

REGULATION AND PRACTICE

To be eligible for accelerated examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d) and pursuant to the "Change to Practice for Petitions in Patent Applications to Make Special and for Accelerated Examination" published in the Federal Register on June 26, 2006 (71 Fed. Reg. 36323), the following conditions must be satisfied:

1. The application must be a non-reissue utility or design application filed under 37 CFR 1.111(a);
2. The application, the petition and the required fees must be filed electronically using the USPTO's electronic filing system (EFS), or EFS-web; if not filed electronically, a statement asserting that EFS and EFS-web were not available during the normal business hours;
3. The application, at the time of filing, must be complete under 37 CFR 1.51 and in condition for examination;
4. The application must contain three or fewer independent claims and twenty or fewer total claims and the claims must be directed to a single invention.
5. The petition must be filed with the application.

The application as filed is not eligible for the accelerated examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d) because the petition was not filed with the application. As noted in the policy statement referenced above, any petition to make special filed on or after the effective date must meet the new requirements set forth in the 71 Fed. Reg. 36323 notice. Applications filed before the effective date will not be eligible for the revised accelerated examination program. The effective date of the change in practice was August 25, 2006. Thus the instant petition must be reviewed under the revised practice and the instant application is ineligible.

The petition appears on its face to have been filed without recognition of the August 25, 2006 policy change to the petition to make special program. The changes to the program are substantial. A copy of Federal Register on June 26, 2006 (71 Fed. Reg. 36323) is being attached to the mailed decision for petitioner's review. Further guidance may be found at www.USPTO.gov under the accelerated examination link.

For the above-stated reasons, the petition is **DENIED**. The application will therefore be taken up by the examiner for action in its regular turn.

Any inquiry regarding this decision should be directed to J. Harrison, TC 3700 Special Program Examiner, at (571) 272-4449.



J. Harrison
Special Program Examiner
Technology Center 3700